

2003 Pierce's Disease Research Symposium (December 9 – 11, 2003)

This annual event is regarded as one of the most useful ways to learn the latest about research being conducted on Pierce's disease and its vectors. The 2003 Symposium will continue that tradition by featuring a comprehensive poster session where researchers can present the most important aspects of their research and results, and by holding facilitated break-out sessions where the current status of each major area of research will be thoroughly explored and examined.

An added goal of this year's Symposium is to help develop a roadmap for the coming several years of research. This important goal depends upon the involvement of the experts – the researchers – to discuss, debate, and develop outlines for these roadmaps during the facilitated break-out sessions.

Proceedings

As in prior years, the Symposium organizers are preparing a compendium of research progress reports, to be handed out at the Symposium. In addition, our goal is to make an electronic version of the Proceedings available on-line one week before the Symposium is held. This will provide researchers and other interested parties the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the efforts and progress of their colleagues before the Symposium, leading to more informed and directed discussions and dialog. For this to be successful, it is imperative that progress reports be submitted on time, and according to the formatting guidelines provided.

Poster Session

This is the opportunity for researchers to present the “nuts and bolts” of their current research. Posters will be available for viewing during the comprehensive poster session, to be held on the first day (December 9) of the Symposium. The poster session will start at 3:45 p.m. and end at 6:15 p.m. Details and instructions on the format for posters will be provided to presenters soon.

Break-out Sessions

In previous years, the Symposium featured a series of short oral presentations by individual researchers on each of their projects. This year, researchers and stakeholders will have the opportunity to shape the future direction of research through facilitated discussion (break-out) sessions. For each of the key research areas, break-out groups will work together to summarize:

- What is currently known about the research area
- What research gaps remain to be filled
- What short-term and/or long-term management tools are likely to result from the area of research.

Each breakout group's work will be guided by a written format and a skilled facilitator. Please come prepared to roll up your sleeves and work together with your colleagues. Note that, because of this new approach, researchers will not need to prepare an oral presentation or slide show on their research project for the 2003 Pierce's Disease Research Symposium.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Athar Tariq at the Pierce's Disease Program at 916-322-2804.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the 2003 Pierce's Disease Research Symposium!